

1 Samuel 3:1-20

1 Corinthians 4:5-12

Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18

Mark 2:23-3:6

In the first verse of 1 Samuel, we read; The Word of the LORD was rare in those days – no widespread revelation. In the seventh verse, Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him. (Why was this if he lived with Eli, a priest and judge of Israel?)

In verse ten after three attempts, The LORD **came, stood, and revealed the consequences of Eli's iniquity to the young boy**. That's some introduction to God!

Eli wasn't doing his job. The history of Eli's family because of his desire for peace (for himself), lack of discipline, and proper teaching is a sad one. (1Samuel 4:6-21).

Verses 19 and 20 of chapter 3 shows us the proof of a true prophet of GOD; referring to Samuel it says, *so Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let NONE of his words fall to the ground.*

When God speaks His word and it is His word, then He performs it.

We often confuse prophetic words with words of encouragement. Not every 'prophetic word' is from God. We sometimes 'prophecy' out of our heart, which really can be 'words of encouragement' or, 'a word of wisdom' or, a 'word of knowledge' and these are not bad, and we should never stop.

Psalms 139: I remember a time when this chapter was difficult for me personally.

Sometimes the enemy of our souls will use the Word of God to condemn us but, the Holy Spirit will use it to convict A BIG difference! The condemning will drive us from but, the convicting will draw us to.

He searches us and knows us. He comprehends and understands our path, our lives, our thoughts, our words. He knew us and planned our days before we were born. He goes before us and is behind us and has us covered on all sides. No matter where we go, He is there! He covered us while we were being formed in the secret place. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. He planned our days, ordained them, and wrote them in His book, before even one came to pass. He has laid His hand upon us. His **right** hand holds us fast and when we awaken, He's still there!

Although we may not follow His path and we often veer off, GOD is always wooing and calling us by His Holy Spirit and will continue, however long it takes for us to 'catch on.'

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (KJV says an expected end) (NIV uses the word plans).

Those thoughts and that plan never ceases! We just walk out from under it, He calls and it's up to us to listen. He doesn't give up. Praise the LORD!

In the Gospel reading it appears to me that the Pharisees constantly followed Jesus looking for fault. He was Lord of the Sabbath, and the Sabbath was made for man.

In the synagogue there was a man with a withered hand sitting perhaps, in the back. Jesus calls him. "Step forward." He then asked, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" They would not speak. Jesus was angry and grieved over their hardness. He then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." The man obeyed and was healed.

Psalms 139 tells us that God is all knowing and sees. He hears our words when they are just thoughts. Jesus is God. What a mix of emotions Jesus must have felt at that moment. The LORD of the Sabbath, the Creator, the Saviour of the world. Filled with love and compassion for this man, He was saddened at the response (nonresponse which was louder than words), of the religious (church), leaders. Angered at their stubbornness and grieved at their hardness.

Heavenly Father, help us to hear when You call us and listen for Your voice. Give us eyes to see past the physical appearances of what lays before us and to see with Your eyes the beauty within every person. To speak words of truth in love and to receive correction with humility. To walk in the light of Your countenance and to pray daily for the 'Peace of Jerusalem!' Amen!

***He has shown thee, O man, what is good and what the LORD requires of you.
But to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.***

(Maranatha Music)